

Meeting Minutes Approved - 3.08.07

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley at 7:14 PM, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair; Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D,

Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

I. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was

VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the agenda, without Mr. Costa.

II. FY 2007-2008 Budget Workshop - The Superintendent gave a quick review of Saturday's budget workshop on staffing levels at the

elementary, middle and high school. She made a power point presentation of a budget of \$52,235,279. Under revenues she explained they were anticipating a 3% increase in state aid for \$414,000. Under expenditures she noted they were anticipating a \$650,000 savings in the healthcare administrative line and the capital items were removed. Mr. Prignano reported they would be requesting the full 5.25% increase. They are assuming through attrition there would be a 5% savings in the certified payroll and put that difference in the cost center to move around. The Superintendent noted they had redesigned the cost centers by schools and departments. Mr. Prignano reviewed the line items.

Mr. Hilton reported the major items under capital improvement are the roof at BF Norton, asbestos abatement at Community, the IA and Trans Building at the High School, which will leave some for the phone system and security. The Superintendent noted that the list has been given to the planning board. The fire codes are also a consideration. Mr. Hilton also noted they went out to bid for the new automatic hand towels dispensers and got a better price than through the master price agreement. Mr. Prignano commented that they would look at larger purchases of materials if they had the storage. He also explained how Title I money can be used for purchasing computers which helps the general fund budget.

It was noted there was only a \$4,000 increase in revenues for building rentals. The Superintendent thought the Wellness Center was

attracting a different group of people. Mr. Geiselman reviewed athletics noting they had intermural and clubs at the middle schools and then moved to varsity, JV and freshman sports at the high school.

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Mr. Costa's arrival was noted at 8:20 p.m.

The Superintendent noted that all the sports that are offered are fully funded except Lacrosse which was established with an agreement that it would be parent group funded. Mr. Geiselman noted there are sports such as cross country, swimming and wrestling that have an opportunity to participate in New England competitions and the parent groups help defray those costs. The Superintendent reported that freshman coaches are funded at \$9,800 and they may need to have a conversation on that. Ms. MacBeth commented that the cross country team at North Cumberland Middle School used to have more students involved than currently allowed and would like to see that participation increased.

Dr. Morelle commented on the impact from the federal level of No Child Left Behind to the local mandates and the 3050 legislation. She noted the signed contract for phones will reduce the phone bill by

50%. She reported that the state requires the town to provide transportation for students attending private school and out of district. They are also required to provide textbooks for private school students. They are asking for a moratorium on any additional state mandates until the legislation makes a recommendation on funding. She stated she would like to have a vote on the budget at the school committee meeting on the 22nd. Ms. Beaulieu commented that she would like to see more in technology resources for special ed students, increased professional development, support for communication. Mr. Wagner expressed concern for the old copiers and would like to see additional copiers in the budget. Mr. Thibodeau congratulated the Superintendent on a fair budget and said he would support it 100%. Ms. MacBeth expressed concern for the cuts for next year. The Chair thanked the Superintendent, central administration and the public.

III. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE adjourning at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee March 8, 2007